

The Compassion and Willingness of God

“Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him. ‘I am willing,’ He said. ‘Be healed’”
(Mark 1:41 NLT).

I. Jesus is Good News!

- A. In Mark 1:40-41, a leper declares, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.” Jesus compassionately says, “I am willing!” to all who humble themselves before Him.
- B. In His first sermon, Jesus declared, “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news” (Mark 1:15).
- C. The story of the fishes and loaves (Mark 6:34-44)
 1. Jesus is not indifferent. He is purposefully compassionate (Mark 6:34).
 2. Jesus delights in using us in our inadequacy to minister compassion to others. “You give them something to eat” (Mark 6:37).
 3. Whatever we give in weakness and compassion Jesus can multiply (Mark 6:42-44).
- D. Sometimes we fail to connect Bible stories and testimonies of the compassion and willingness of Jesus to our everyday life.
 1. In Mark 8:1-9, Jesus again multiplies food through the disciples.
 2. Shortly after this, the disciples could not see how these miracles were connected to the lack of bread in their own boat, their lives (Mark 8:14-21).

II. Three Key Questions from Mark 8:14-21

- A. “Are your hearts hardened” (Mark 8:17)? Fortunately, hearts can be softened through the supernatural impartation of the Father’s love (I Jn. 4:19; Eph. 3:14-21; John 5:19-20).
- B. “Don’t you remember” (Mark 8:18-19)?
 1. We remember past testimonies to meet our present need.
 2. We comfort others with comfort we receive from God (II Cor.1:3-4).
- C. “Do you still not understand” (Mark 8:20-21)? Jesus is absolutely committed to using us to “Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers...” (Matthew 10:5-8).

III. The Beautiful Body of Christ

- A. The Church is the Body of Christ distributing God’s gifts to other believers and to the world (I Corinthians 12:7-11).
- B. Our prayers for each other are powerful (James 5:15-18).
- C. “A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; he rages against all wise judgment” (Proverbs 18:1 NKJV).
- D. “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity...for there the Lord bestows His blessing...” (Psalm 133).
- E. Without a revelation of the beauty and love of Jesus, we release only a little power (Luke 7:11-15). But with this revelation comes a tenacity from us that moves the heart of the Father to respond (Luke 11:5-13).

Mike Hudgins
January 7, 2024